10.

STRANGE NEWS FROM THE EAST,

OR, A

SOBER ACCOUNT OF THE COMET,

OR

BLAZING-STAR

That has been ſeen ſeveral Mornings of late.

Giving a Relation of its time of Riſing, Colour, Magnitude, and other Circumſtances.

With an Hiſtorical Diſcourſe of the moſt eminent Comets that have been ſeen for ſome hundreds of years, and the Effects that followed.

By *W. L.* Student in Aſtrology.

London, Printed for *B. H.* in the Year, 1677.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE COMET, OR BLAZING-STAR.

THE Rumour of this Cœleſtial Prodigy coming to our Ear, we could not ſcarce at firſt give any credit thereunto; but being aſſured by Letters from able Artiſts of the certainty of the thing, we were willing to deny our Eyes a few hours ſleep to gratifie their curioſity of beholding ſo rare a Phœnominon.

Some report, that in the North about *York* and *Lincolnſhire*, it was firſt ſeen about *Eaſter-Eve* in the morning; but we have not met with any Spectators till the 20. or 21. of this Inſtant *April*: our ſelf beheld it not till *Monday* the 23. about two in the morning, when it appeared above the Horizon towards the North, and making but a ſmall Arch, after about two hours continuance in view, ſunk again out of this Hemiſphere almoſt

due East; its bigneſs was about a Star of the ſecond magnitude to the eye, but ſomewhat of *Saturn*'s Complexion, cloudy and obſcure; and from the Body, a Stream or Tail ſhooting directly upwards towards the Zenith, appearing to ſenſe about a Yard or ſomewhat more in length, and ſometimes more conſpicuous than at others; its place was in the Cœleſtial Sign *Aries*, near three Stars that from their Figure are called the *Triangle*, having not convenient Inſtruments I could not take any more exact obſervation, nor can as yet be ſatisfied, whether its proper motion be Direct or Retrograde; but expect daily an exquiſite Account of thoſe Niceties from ſeveral Friends curious in Aſtronomical Studies.

As for the cauſes and matter of theſe Blazing-ſtars, moſt Philoſophers conceit them to be ſublunary Meteors, ariſing from the moſt ſubtile and thin breathings that aſcend out of the Earth, and attracted by the Sun to a vaſt heighth, even above the Orb of the Moon, where compacted to a mighty Body they are ſet on fire, or as ſome will have it, not ſo much *Inflamed* as *Enlightned* by the Sun: but theſe Accounts ſeem not to give a ſatisfactory ſolution of the doubts that ariſe from the conſideration of thoſe Events, which in all Ages they have been obſerved to be Significators and Fore-runners, though not *Authors* or *Cauſes* of; we therefore more willingly ſubſcribed to the Opinion of that profound modern Philoſopher *Paracelſus*, who affirms, that a Comet is *Creſcens ſingulare*, a Prodigy not generated of any *Sperm*, or produced by any *Matrix*, but formed and compoſed extraordinarily according to the good pleaſure of God by Angels, who put it into ſuch a form or ſhape, and give it ſuch colour as may beſt repreſent the judgments, Mutations, or Accidents thereby ſignified unto the people, unto whom

whom they are ſent, or appear viſible; if with diligent ſtudy they contemplate the ſame, that thereby they may take warning and amend their Lives, which draw down theſe Menaces of vengeance upon their heads.

'Tis the concurrent Vote of all Nations and Ages that Comets are Harbingers of vengeance, to ſome places or people, and fore runners of ſad and dire Calamities.... *Alſtedius* ſays, *Effecta Cometarum ſunt bona vel mala*, &c. The effects or ſignifications of Comets are either good or evil, the firſt by taking away from the Globe of Earth noxious Vapours, but for the moſt part they are a Token of ſome Divine Judgment, as may appear in the following Account.

A Brief Hiſtorical Account of the moſt ſtrange and memorable Accidents, which have ſucceeded the Apparition of the moſt eminent Comets for ſeveral hundred years laſt paſt.

IN the year 1347. a Comet appeared in *Taurus*, which was followed by a horrible Plague throughout the whole World, in ſo much that Hiſtories report that the Third part of People in *Europe* were therewith deſtroyed.

Anno, 1350. A Comet appeared in the North, in *December*, and it being extinct, horrible Tempeſts of winds enſued, and did much harm; a great Plague of Locuſts

in

in *Poland*, and the *English* defeat a great Fleet of *Spaniards* at *Winchelsea*.

About three years after was another Comet, then happened the extraordinary dry Summer, and a Dearth of Corn.

Anno 1373. Appeared a Comet, after which followed great Calamities in *Italy*: An infinite number of Grashoppers came out of the East, and did almost spoil all *France*.

Anno 1594, *Cometa apparuit qui* Veru *appellatur quem pessimum putant Astrologi*. It was slender, its Beard and Beams stretching upwards, and its Head downwards, a mighty Earth-quake in *Switzerland*, and *Tamberlain* the great Thunder-bolt of War.

In the Year 1400, 401, 402, and 403, *Comets* were seen in every Year, attended with unheard of Diseases, great Wars in *Asia*; and *John Husse* (contrary to the *Emperour's* Safe-Conduct) condemned and burnt to death for preaching the Gospel in *Bohemia*.

Anno 1433 a vast *Comet* was seen for three months together in the East; presently happened a dearth of Corn and Famine in diverse Regions for six Years.

Anno 1444 a *Comet* about the Summer Solstice, after which the *French Dolphin* brought 30000 *Armenians* in *Switzerland*, and destroy'd the People of that Countrey in a most bloody Battel.

Anno 1460. *Cometa visu terribile apparuit*, a terrible *Comet* was seen, immediately *Charles* the *French* King dies, and a great Pestilence in *Saxony*.

1472 on the 13 of *January* appeared a *Comet* in *Libra*, very slow, but at last when hastily the whole *Hemisphere* between the Poles of the *Zodiack* and the *Æquinoctial*, with such celerity, that it moved in one day 40 degrees,

grees, forthwith many Princes take their progreſs into another World, and the mighty River *Danubius* was ſo dry'd up by exceſſive heat, that Men paſſed over on foot.

Anno 1478. a *Comet* of a *Saturnine-colour*, *Lewis* the Eleventh King of *France* invades *Burgundy*, where he 2000 Men.

Anno 1500 a *Comet* of incredible bigneſs for 18 days in the Month of *April* appeared towards the North: The *Tartars* ſpoil all *Ruſſia* and *Poland*, Plague and Famine in Ioſt *Germany*.

Six Years after two *Comets* appeared; the firſt in *April*, its motion like the *Planets* was from Weſt to Eaſt: The other in *Auguſt*, between North and Eaſt; the King of *Spain* and *Emperour* dye, wars between the *Venetian* and *French*, and great ſcarcity.

Anno 1533 a mighty *Comet* out of the *Zodiack*; This fore-went the Reformation and changes in *England*, by King *Henry* the Eight, and Birth of Queen *Elizabeth*.

1572. The new *Star* or *Comet* in *Caſſiopea*; the ſame Year happened the *Pariſian Maſſacre*, or the *French Wedding*, where there was more *Proteſtants* Blood ſpent than wine; *Charles* the Ninth of *France* and *Selymus* the *Great Turk* dye.

1618. for almoſt two Months appeared a *Comet* with an exceeding long Tail, preſently the lamentable wars began in *Germany*, followed by thoſe in *Ireland*, *England*, and where not.

1652. Another in *Gemini* and *Taurus*; The *Engliſh* ſubdue *Scotland*, and beat the *Dutch* at Sea, *Cromwell* uſurps the Government; The *Pope* and King of the *Romans* dye.

In 1664 and 1665. we had three *Comets*, and how plain their ſignifications are ſince recorded as well in our Nation by *Peſtilence*, *Fire*, and *Forreign Wars*, as abroad

abroad by that delusion that hath been made in many parts, cannot certainly be unregarded or forgot. We shall conclude this Discourse, in reference to the present *Comet*, with that of the Prophet *Jer.* 10. 2. *Fear not the Signs of Heaven*; but rather fear GOD the Author of these *Signs*: Let us behold and meditate on these things as *Christians*; and though *Astrologers* render Natural Causes and Portents of *Comets*, &c. which appear in Heaven, let them not shake our Faith, but be only as so many *Trumpets* or *Heraulds* sent from the Divine Majesty, advertising Men that they persist not in their filthy, lustful courses, acknowledging that when these *Blazing-Meteors* hang over our Heads, they seem as if God held his Rod over us, threatning to scourge us, or reacheth his hand to us to call us by such *Signs* to change our Lives, to the end that through his mercy we may obtain pardon for our sins.

122047